

MARVEL

SUPER-SIZED ANNUAL



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100-000

64
PAGES

the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™

THE EVOLUTIONARY WAR

OH, NO!
NOT AGAIN!

GWEN
STACY
IS BACK!



PLUS:
THE
DRAMATIC
RETURN OF
**THE
YOUNG
GODS!**



RETURN TO SENDER

"I ALWAYS LIKED CATS, BUT WHEN I WAS A KID AUNT MAY USED TO TELL ME I WAS ALLERGIC."

"ALLERGIC TO CATS, ALLERGIC TO DOGS... SOMETIMES I THOUGHT I WAS ALLERGIC TO LIFE."

"SHE MEANT WELL, AUNT MAY DID, BUT SHE HAD THIS IDEA IN HER HEAD THAT HER POOR ORPHANED NEPHEW NEEDED PROTECTING."

"FUNNY HOW WE GET IDEAS ABOUT OURSELVES AND OTHER PEOPLE."

"FUNNY HOW THOSE IDEAS ARE SO OFTEN SO WRONG."

GERRY CONWAY
SCRIPT
RICK PARKER
LETTERING
MARK BAGLEY
PENCILS
KEITH WILLIAMS
INKS
JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
BOB SHAREN
COLOR
TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"TURNS OUT, I WASN'T ALLERGIC AFTER ALL. BIG SURPRISE."



"I WONDER WHAT MARY JANE WOULD SAY IF I CAME HOME WITH A CAT."

"I WONDER IF SHE'S ALLERGIC."



"WEIRD"

"I'VE KNOWN HER SINCE HIGH SCHOOL, WE'VE BEEN LOVERS FOR YEARS, SHE'S MY WIFE AND BEST FRIEND, BUT I'VE NO IDEA IF SHE EVEN *LIKES* KITTIES."



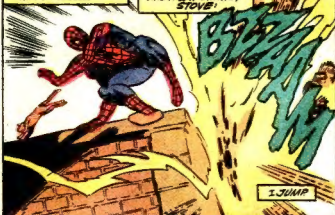
"SHE ALWAYS CALLED ME 'TIGER'."



"MAYBE SHE—"

"UH-OH."

"MY SPIDER-SENSE IS AN *INSTINCT*, MORE A REFLEX THAN A PROCESS."

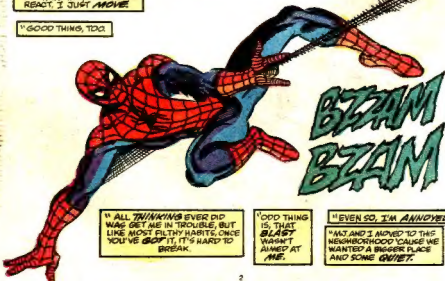


"WHEN THE SENSE GOES OFF WITH A WARNING, I'M LIKE A CAT ON A HOT STOVE!"

"I JUMP"

"NO THINKING, NO TIME TO REACT, I JUST *MOVE*."

"GOOD THING, TOO."

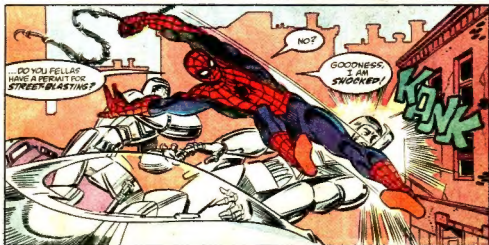
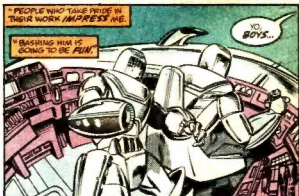
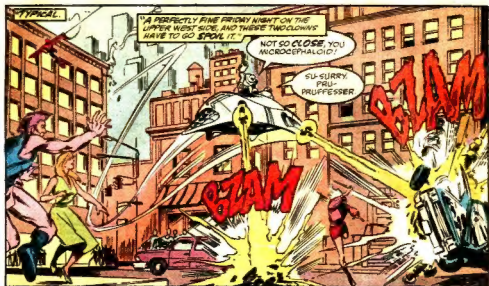


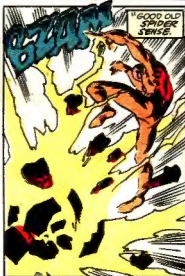
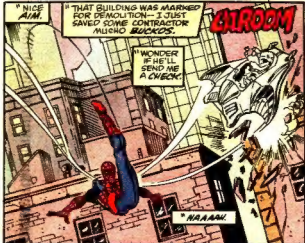
"ALL *THINKING* EVER DID WAS GET ME IN TROUBLE, BUT LIKE MOST FILTHY HABITS, ONCE YOU'VE GOT IT, IT'S HARD TO BREAK."

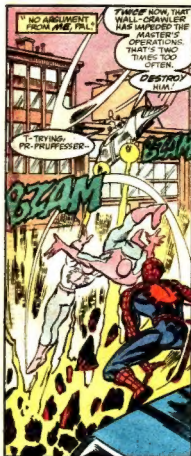
"ODD THING IS, THAT *BLAST* WASN'T AIMED AT ME."

"EVEN SO, I'M *ANNOYED*."

"MJ AND I MOVED TO THIS NEIGHBORHOOD 'CAUSE WE WANTED A BIGGER PLACE AND SOME *QUIET*."







INTERLUDE 1

SOMEWHERE IN THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEANS THAT COVER THREE-QUARTERS OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE SAILS A VAST SUBMARINE, THE LARGEST CRAFT OF ITS KIND...

SINCE THE FALL OF HIS STRONGHOLD AT THE SOUTH POLE, THIS HAS BEEN THE MOBILE BASE OF OPERATIONS OF THE WORLD'S MOST BRILLIANT GENETICIST--THE SELF-APPOINTED ARCHITECT OF HUMANITY'S FUTURE...

WHEN I PROMOTED YOU TO CHIEF GATHERER, REPLACING THE DEPARTED, DR. STACK, I TOLD YOU THERE REMAINED ONLY ONE MISSION FOR YOUR TEAM TO ACCOMPLISH, NOW THAT THE GENETIC BOMB IS ALMOST READY FOR DETONATION.

WHAT IS THAT MISSION, PROFESSOR QUINT?

TO GATHER THE WOMAN WHO CALLS HERSELF GWEN STACY. PERHAPS IF YOU TOLD US WHAT MAKES HER SO SPECIAL--

SHE IS AN ANOMALY, QUINT.

A BEING WHO SHOULD NOT EXIST. A GENETIC FREAK. AN IMPOSSIBILITY.

I MUST STUDY HER GENETIC STRUCTURE. I MUST UNDERSTAND.

GATHER HER, QUINT. CAN YOU DO THAT?

ABSOLUTELY.

PURIFYING THE HUMAN RACE, PREPARING IT FOR ADVANCEMENT TO THE NEXT STAGE OF EVOLUTION--THIS IS OUR SACRED OBLIGATION, QUINT.

HUMANITY'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON US.

WE MUST NOT FAIL.

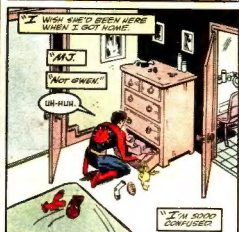
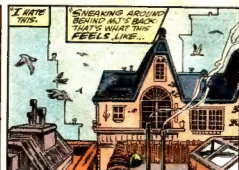
WE DID OUR BEST, HIGH EVOLUTIONARY.

IF THE FLIGHT-POD HADN'T BEEN ON THE VERGE OF A TOTAL POWER LOSS, WE WOULD HAVE CAPTURED THE GIRL--

-- AND DEALT WITH SPIDER-MAN.

I'M DISHEARTENED, QUINT.

IN THE MEANTIME, ONE TASK REMAINS WHICH ONLY I MAY PERFORM.





"I'M NOT IGNORING HER."

ONE OF THE PERKS OF HIGH FASHION MODELING: A *DICARMO* ORIGINAL. ALL MINE, 'CAUSE I WAS SUCH A DARLING ON THE SET. LET'S CELEBRATE. MY TREAT.



"I JUST CAN'T THINK OF A THING TO SAY."

--HELICOPTER CRUISE AT DAWN--
WHAT DO YOU SAY, TI--

DINNER AT SHANKMAN'S, DANCING AT THE TUNNEL--



PETER?

YOU OKAY?

CORNY AS IT SOUNDS, YOU LOOK LIKE A MAN WHO'S SEEN A GHOST.

GHOST.



YEAH, THAT'S THE WORD FOR IT, M.J.

SHE'S BACK.

WHO'S BACK, PETER?

BLACK CAT?
SILVER SABLE?
MADONNA?



OH, NO...

"GWEN STACY,

"THE LOVE OF MY LIFE BEFORE YOU WERE THE LOVE OF MY LIFE, MARY JANE.

"I WISH I COULD SAY SHE DOESN'T MATTER TO ME ANYMORE.

"I WISH I COULD SAY THE FEELINGS WERE GONE...

"I WISH... SHE'D JUST STAY DEAD."

INTERLUDE 2

SOMEWHERE
NEAR THE
CENTRAL EXPLODING
CORE OF OUR TEN-
BILLION-YEAR-OLD
GALAXY, A VAST
ALIEN CRAFT
DRIFTS ON A TIDE
OF NEUTRONS...

...LIKE SOME
COSMIC
BEHEMOTH
DROUSING
ON A DEEP
OCEAN
CURRENT.

LARGER THAN A
SMALL STAR, MASSING
NO LESS THAN AN
ENTIRE PLANETARY
SYSTEM, IT IS HOME
TO A RACE OF
BEINGS KNOWN
AS THE
CELESTIALS.

WHAT POWERS THESE
CELESTIALS
POSSESS, WHAT
PURPOSES THEY
PURSUE, NO
HUMAN MIND
CAN EASILY
IMAGINE.

IN SPITE OF HIMSELF THE
HIGH EVOLUTIONARY
IS QUITE... IMPRESSED

INCREDIBLE.

INCREDIBLE THAT
CREATURES AS
POWERFUL AS
THESE COULD
THREATEN THE
EARTH--

-- AND AFTERWARD, WIPE
ALL TRACE OF THEIR
EXISTENCE FROM THE
MINDS OF ORDINARY
MEN.

ORDINARY
MEN, BUT NOT
THE HIGH
EVOLUTIONARY.

I
REMEMBER
EVERYTHING.

THE CELESTIALS CAME TO
JUDGE HUMANITY'S
GENETIC FITNESS TO
SURVIVE.

HUMANITY PASSED
THE TEST TO MY CON-
SIDERABLE SURPRISE.

WHEN THEY LEFT
EARTH, THE CELESTIALS
TOOK TWELVE GENETICALLY-
ENHANCED HUMANS
WITH THEM.

**YOUNG
GODS** -
THEY WERE
CALLED -

-- WHOSE POWERS
REPRESENT THE
TWELVE GREAT
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
OF HUMANITY --

-- MEN AND WOMEN
CHOSEN FOR TRANSFOR-
MATION BY THE "GODS"
OF SEVERAL MYTHO-
LOGICAL PANTHEONS *

SINCE THEIR ARRIVAL HERE,
THE SO-CALLED **YOUNG GODS**
HAVE BEEN IN "TRAINING" --

-- LEARNING THE USE OF THEIR
POWERS UNDER THE TUTORAGE
OF TWO **ALIEN WARRIORS**.

ALL THIS I LEARNED
WHEN I TELEPATHICALLY
SCANNED THE CELESTIALS'
MOTHERSHIP MONTHS
AGO.

* SEE OUR
FACT PAGES FOR
MORE DETAILS - JIM

AH, THERE
THEY ARE.

NOW TO OBSERVE,
UNSEEN IN MY PSYCHIC
PRESENCE.

SLOW DOWN,
MOONSTALKER.

THIS IS
PRACTICE,
NOT
COMBAT.

YOU ALWAYS SAY
I DON'T TAKE TRAINING
SERIOUSLY ENOUGH, CARTER,
AND THEN WHEN I DO --

USE BRIGHT
SWORD'S GOD-
NAME, **MOON-
STALKER**.

HUMAN NAMES FOR
**PRIVATE CONVER-
SATION ONLY**

INFAIRT ESKIMOS
UNDERSTAND ALL
ABOUT **SECRET**
NAMES, KATOS

THEY'RE FOR
FRIENDS

GODS CAN BE
RESIDENTS HERE
CAN'T WE?

NOT WHEN
WE TRAIN,
LITTLE PUFFIN.

SPIKES!

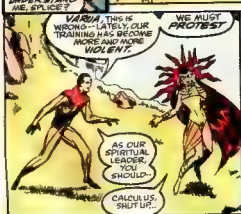
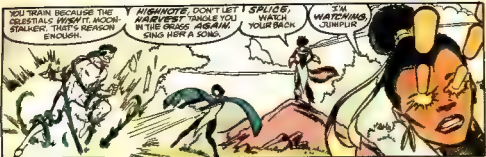
MINDSINGER!

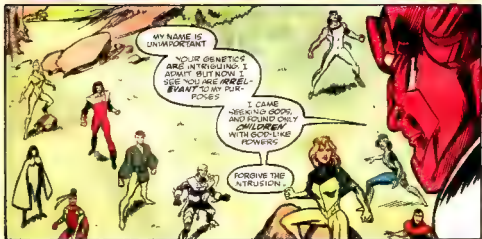
NO FAIR **CRASHING**
YOURSELF WHEN I'M
NOT LOOKING.

ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE
AND WAR, SPEEDY
ONE

WHAT
WAR?

WHY DO WE HAVE
TO TRAIN ALL THE
TIME, ANYWAY? I
WANT TO GO **HUNTING!**







CLEARLY, MANK N'D'S GENETIC DESTINY LIES ALONG A DIFFERENT PATH

DAYDREAMER, STOP HIM! DON'T LET HIM GO!

I'M TRYING, BRIGHT SWORD.



-- BUT I CAN'T!
I DEAL IN DREAMS AND VISIONS

WHOEVER THAT WAS, HIS POWERS WERE STRONGER THAN MINE.



ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, KATRINKA? HE DID NOT HURT YOU?

ON, I'M FINE, GREGOR LOVE BUT I KEEP TELLING YOU, MY NAME'S CATHERINE, NOT

PLEASE, DAYDREAMER, FOR ONCE, STICK TO THE SUBJECT

DID YOU SENSE ANYTHING ELSE?

BAD DREAMS, CALCULUS, DEADLY DREAMS.



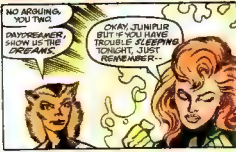
SURELY YOU EXAGGERATE

JUNIPUR HAS TAUGHT YOU AND YOUR TEAM TO SEE ENEMIES EVERYWHERE...

I'M AFRAID SHE'S RIGHT THIS TIME, KATOS I SENSED MUCH THE SAME VIOLENCE, AND DEATH

SEE THANKS VARUA NICE TO KNOW WE SAW THE SAME THING...

FOR ONCE



NO ARGUING, YOU TWO

DAYDREAMER, SHOW US THE DREAMS.

OKAY, JUNIPUR BUT IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE SLEEPING TONIGHT, JUST REMEMBER--



YOU ASKED

A FLASH OF LIGHT, A GLIMPSE OF DARKNESS-- SHIVERING HEAT AND BURNING COLD.

THE IMAGE COMES, IMPRINTING ITSELF IN ALL OF THEIR MINDS IN AN INSTANT.

AND IN AN INSTANT IT IS GONE.



THAT BEING PLANS THE EVOLUTIONARY GENOCIDE OF HUMAN-KIND?

HORRIBLE. BUT NO CONCERN OF OURS

ARE YOU INSANE? KATRINKA!

OOOON!!



THESE DREAMS ARE NOT FOR A DELICATE SOUL LIKE YOURS, KATRINKA -

I'M TOUGHER THAN YOU THINK, GREGOR



"BUT THANKS FOR THE HAND, ANYWAY"

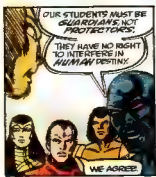
KATOS, YOU DON'T SUGGEST WE ASKORE THIS?

OUR STUDENTS WERE GRANTED GODLIKE POWER

THEY MUST USE THAT POWER TO PROTECT HUMANITY FROM ITSELF -- FROM ITS OWN INHERENT EVIL NATURE

NO, JUNIPUR

THIS EVOLUTIONARY CRISIS IS A HUMAN PROBLEM, TO BE SOLVED BY HUMANS.



OUR STUDENTS MUST BE GUARDIANS, NOT PROTECTORS.

THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE IN HUMAN DESTINY

WE AGREE.



AND WE DISAGREE.

"DON'T INTERFERE" COST SIX MILLION JEWS THEIR LIVES DURING THE HOLOCAUST.



AS AN ISRAELI, I WILL NEVER ALLOW SUCH GENOCIDE TO HAPPEN AGAIN.

HIGHNOTE, SING US TO EARTH!

¡LO QUE USTED QUIERA, MI AMIGO!



MIIIIII, I LOVE IT WHEN RAQUL DOES THAT

MAKES ME ALL TINGLY INSIDE...

NO! STOP! THIS IS--



--WRONG.

VANISHED. HIGH-NOTE HAS TRANS-PORTED THEM TO EARTH BY HIS SONG-SPELL.

WHATTA WE DO TEACH?

STOP THEM CADUCEUS



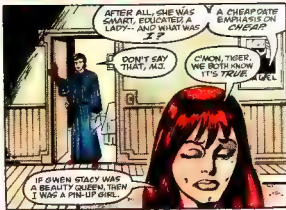
"...BEFORE THEY BRING DISASTER TO ALL HUMANITYX"

END INTERLUDE



I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING, PETER

WHEN GWEN WAS ALIVE, I KNEW I NEVER HAD A CHANCE WITH YOU



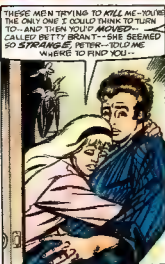
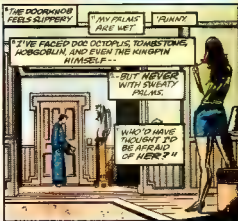
AFTER ALL, SHE WAS SMART, EDUCATED, A LADY-- AND WHAT WAS I?

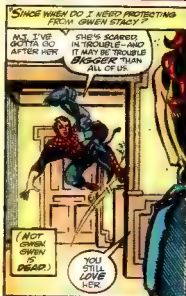
A CHEAP DATE EMPHASIS ON CHEAP?

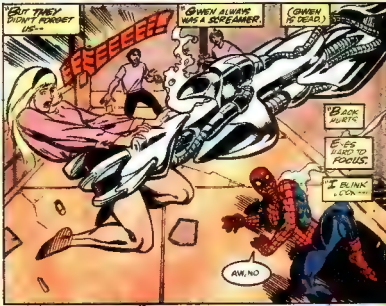
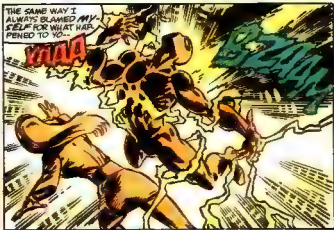
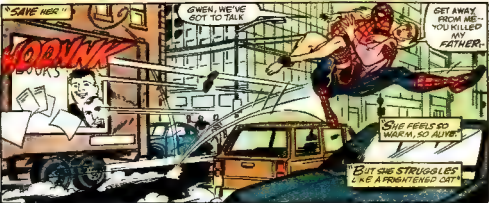
DON'T SAY THAT, M.J.

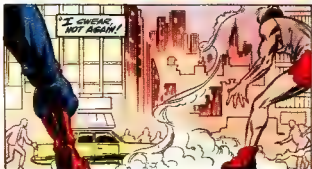
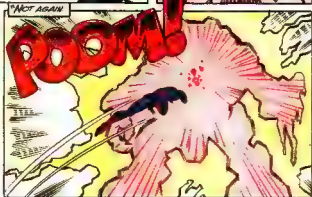
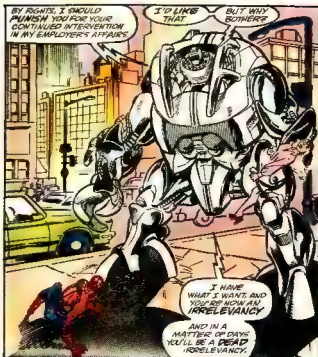
C'MON, TIGER. WE BOTH KNOW IT'S TRUE

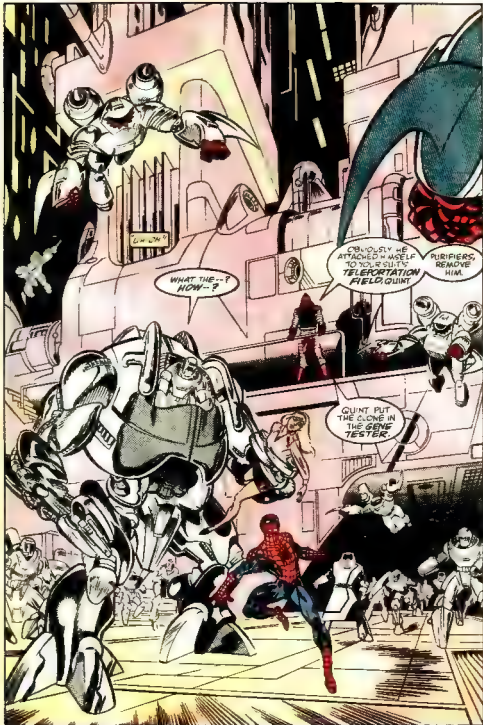
IF GWEN STACY WAS A BEAUTY QUEEN, THEN I WAS A PIN-UP GIRL.











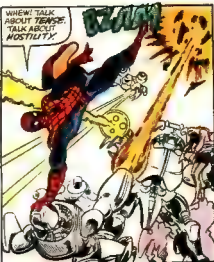
WHAT THE--?
HOW--?

OBVIOUSLY HE
ATTACHED HIMSELF
TO YOUR SUIT'S
TELEPORTATION
FIELD, QUINT

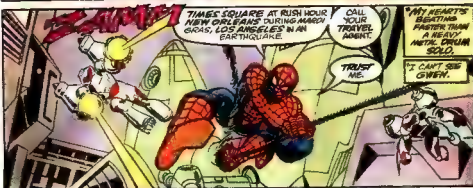
PURIFIERS,
REMOVE
HIM.

QUINT PUT
THE CLONE IN
THE GENE
TESTER.

WHEN! TALK
ABOUT TENSE.
TALK ABOUT
HOSTILITY.



YOU BOYS NEED A NICE LONG
VACATION, SOMEWHERE
YOU CAN UNWIND, RELAX



TIMES SQUARE AT RUSH HOUR
NEW ORLEANS DURING MARCH
GRAS, LOS ANGELES IN AN
EARTHQUAKE.

CALL
YOUR
TRAVEL
AGENT.

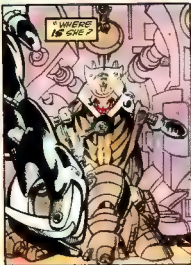
"MY HEART'S
BEATING
FASTER THAN
A HEAVY
METAL DRUM
SOLO.

"I CAN'T SEE
GIVEN.

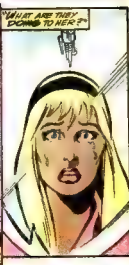
TRUST
ME.



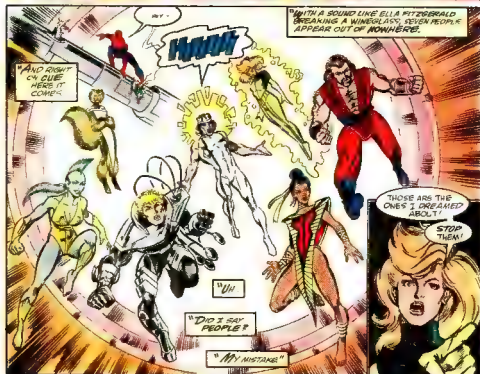
(YEAH, YEAH,
I KNOW, I
KNOW.)



"WHERE
IS SHE?



"WHAT ARE THEY
DOING TO HER?"



MY PLEASURE
TO BEGIN
KATRINKA



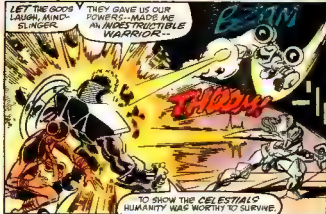
ROLLER!

AS POET, I RE-
MADE LIFE INTO
ART WITH WORDS
NOW I RE MAKE
BODY INTO WEAPON
WITH WORDS

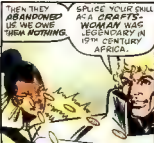


LET THE GODS
LAUGH, MIND-
SLINGER

THEY GAVE US OUR
POWERS--MADE ME
AN INDESTRUCTIBLE
WARRIOR--

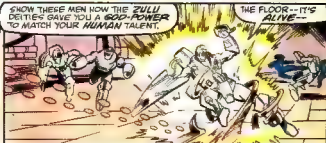


TO SHOW THE CELESTIALS
HUMANITY WAS WORTHY TO SURVIVE.



THEN THEY
ABANDONED
US WE OWE
THEM NOTHING.

SPICE YOUR SKILL
AS A CRAFTS-
WOMAN WAS
LEGENDARY IN
19TH CENTURY
AFRICA.



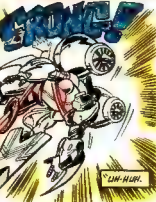
SHOW THESE MEN NOW THE ZULU
DEITIES GAVE YOU A GOD-POWER
TO MATCH YOUR HUMAN TALENT.

THE FLOOR--IT'S
ALIVE--



NOT ALIVE, BUT
CLOSE.

*THEY SAY A GOOD CRAFTSMAN
CAN BREATHE LIFE INTO A GUNK
OF WOOD OR A PIECE OF
STONE.



CRASH!

"LIN-HUH.



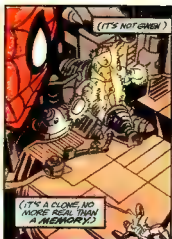
"I LOOK AROUND,
AND I SPOT THE
BOSS.

"HE ISN'T WATCHING
THE FIGHT, DOESN'T
EVEN SEEM
INTERESTED

"I LOOK WHERE
HE'S LOOKING
AND I SEE--"



GIVEN!



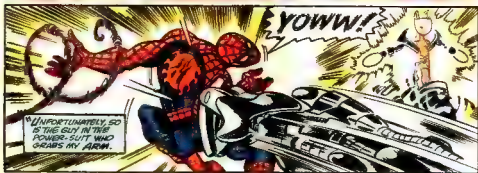
(IT'S NOT GWEN)

(IT'S A CLONE, NO MORE REAL THAN A MEMORY)



"YEAH, BUT MEMORIES ARE REAL."

"AND, CLONE OR NOT, SHE'S REAL, TOO."



YOWWW!

"UNFORTUNATELY, SO IS THE GUY IN THE POWER-SUIT WHO GRABS MY ARM."



"THE PAIN'S SO GREAT I ALMOST BLACK OUT."

"JUST THEN THERE'S ANOTHER FLASH OF LIGHT, A SOUND LIKE A RUBBLE POPPING—"

"—AND THINGS REALLY GET COMPLICATED!"

VARUA!
YOU'VE DECIDED
TO JOIN US AFTER
ALL!



I'M AFRAID NOT, CARTER.

CALCULUS TACTICS ARE YOUR DEPARTMENT.

GIVE US A PLAN.

OPEN YOUR MINDS. SEE THE PATTERN?

LOOKS AS EASY AS A THREE-CARD MONTE SHUFFLE, BRAIN-GUY.

COMPLIMENTS, CADUCEUS ASTOUNDING

SAVE THE BANTER-



"--LET'S CHARLESTON."

MOONSTALKER, DON'T MAKE ME HURT Y--

EH?

YOU CAN'T HURT WHAT YOU CAN'T TOUCH, CARTER

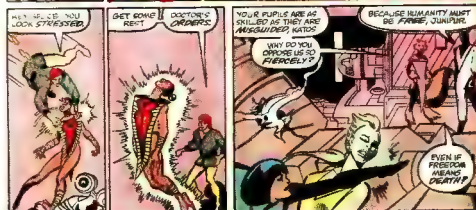


BESIDES -

--THIS TIME, SHE ISN'T THE ONE YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BRIGHT ABOUT BRIGHT SWORD--

WHOOOM!

--I AM.



HEY, HELLO, YOU LOOK STRESSED.

GET SOME REST

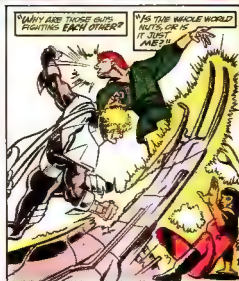
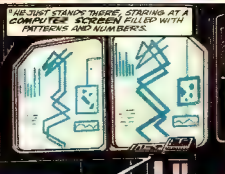
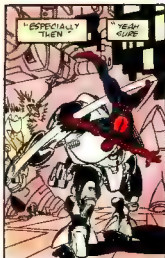
DOCTOR'S ORDERS

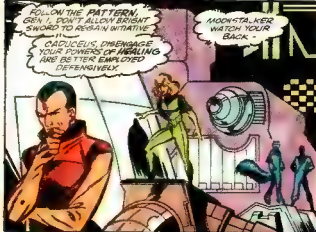
YOUR PUPILS ARE AS SKILLED AS THEY ARE MISGUIDED, KATOS

BECAUSE HUMANITY MUST BE FREE, JUNIPUR.

WHY DO YOU OPPOSE US SO FIERCELY?

EVEN IF FREEDOM MEANS DEATH?





FOLLOW THE PATTERN,
SEN I, DON'T ALLOW BRIANT
SWORD TO REGAIN INITIATIVE

CADUCEUS, DISENGAGE
YOUR POWERS OF HEALING
ARE BETTER EMPLOYED
DEFENSIVELY

MOONSTALKER
WATCH YOUR
BACK -



YOUR PUPIL
CALCULUS IS A
FINE TACTICIAN,
KATOS.

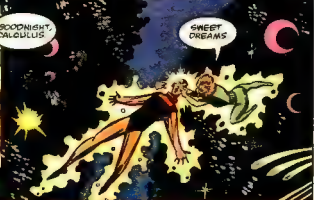
A PITY HE
NEVER
LEARNED
THE
FUTILITY
OF PASSIVE
DEFENSE.

STOP
HER,
JUNIPUR
THIS GOES
TOO FAR.

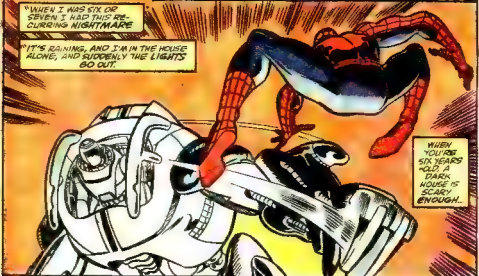


-- REUNION WITH
HARVEST, AND
TOGETHER --

GOODNIGHT,
CALCULUS



SWEET
DREAMS



"WHEN I WAS SIX OR
SEVEN I HAD THIS RE-
CURRING NIGHTMARE

"IT'S RAINING, AND I'M IN THE HOUSE
ALONE, AND SUDDENLY THE LIGHTS
GO OUT.

WHEN
YOU'RE
SIX YEARS
OLD, A
DARK
HOUSE IS
SCARY
ENOUGH..

"BUT THEN IN THE DREAM, I HEAR FOOT- STEPS & THE STREET

"HEAVY FOOT- STEPS, SO LOUD THE GROUND SHAKES AND THE WINDOWS RATTLE,

"I LOOK OUTSIDE AND THERE'S A GIANT ON THE LAWN.

"I TRY TO HIDE, BUT THE GIANT SEES ME, AND HE GRABS ME.



"... AND HE STARTS TO SQUEEZE...



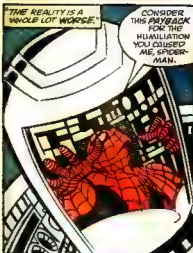
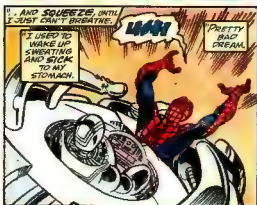
THE WORLD

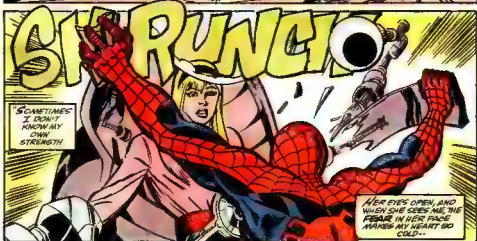
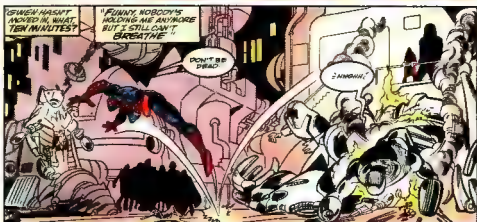
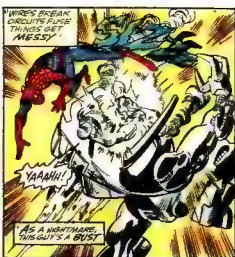
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WORLD?

THE WORLD IS A DREAM, CALCULUS, AND YOU JUST WOKE UP

WHAT DOES YOUR LOGICAL MIND SAY ABOUT THAT?









"-- AND I SAY
SOMETHING
TRULY
STUPID: "

DON'T BE
AFRAID

IT'S
ME

PETER



"THEN SHE'S IN MY ARMS
HER BREATH SHUDDERING
ON MY CHEST, AND THE
YEARS ARE **GONE**.

I'VE
MISSED
YOU.



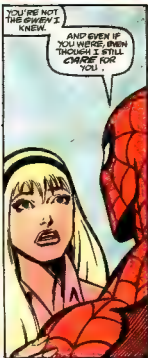
THE FEEL OF YOU
THE WARMTH OF
YOU

THE
WAY
WE
FIT



AND JUST
LIKE THAT

IT'S
OVER



YOU'RE NOT
THE GUY I
KNEW.

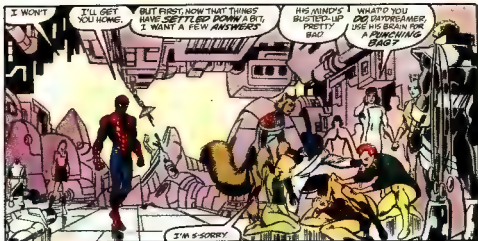
AND EVEN IF
YOU WERE, EVEN
THOUGH I STILL
CARE FOR
YOU .



... I'M IN LOVE
WITH SOMEONE
ELSE

PETER?

DON'T
LEAVE
ME ..



I WON'T

I'LL GET
YOU HOME.

BUT FIRST, NOW THAT THINGS
HAVE SETTLED DOWN A BIT,
I WANT A FEW ANSWERS

HIS MIND'S
BUSTED-UP
PRETTY
BAD

WHAT'D YOU
DO, DAYDREAMER,
USE HIS BRAIN FOR
A PUNCHING
BAG?

I'M S-SORRY!



ANGER HELPS
NOTHING,
CADUCEUS!

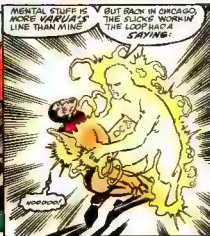
CAN
YOU
HEAL
HIM?

I'M A
PHYSICAL
HEALER,
KATOS.

GOT A BRUISE, A WOUND, A
SNIFFLE -- I'M YOUR MAN.



OR
GOD?



MENTAL STUFF IS
MORE VARUA'S
LINE THAN MINE

BUT BACK IN CHICAGO,
THE SLICKS WORKIN'
THE LOOP HAD A
SAYIN':

WOOOOO!



"DON'T
TRY, YOU
DIE."

GUESS
WE WERE
RIGHT

... THE WORLD...



...IT'S BACK, I'M BACK.
WHAT HAPPENED?

TELL YOU LATER,
CAL OLD PAL,
YOU'RE GONNA
BE OKAY.

JUST DON'T THINK
TOO HARD
THE NEXT FEW DAYS

ENOUGH OF THIS. YOU HAVE
DISRUPTED MY OPERATIONS
AND DISTRACTED ME
FROM MY MAIN PURPOSE

WERE I
VINDICTIVE I
WOULD DESTROY
YOU. INSTEAD YOU
MUST LEAVE.

NOT SO FAST, FRI.
WHAT DID YOU WANT
WITH GWEN?

WITH THE WOMAN YOU
CALLED GWEN STACY
NOTHING

MY INTEREST WAS WITH THE INDIVIDUAL
PURPORTING TO BE HER CLONE

MY GATHERERS' LEARNED OF
HER EXISTENCE AND ORIGIN
FROM THE FILES OF HER
"CREATOR," PROFESSOR
MILES WARREN

I ASKED MYSELF HOW COULD
A MERE UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY
PROFESSOR ACCOMPLISH A
TECHNICAL MIRACLE SUCH AS
NEARLY INSTANTANEOUS
CLONING?

MY STUDY OF THIS WOMAN'S
GENETIC STRUCTURE, COM-
PAIRED TO THAT OF GWEN
STACY, SHOWS THAT HE
DID NOT.

"THIS IS SURMISE. WISHING
TO RECREATE GWEN STACY WARREN
KIDNAPED ANOTHER FEMALE OF
SIMILAR AGE AND GENOTYPE

"HE INFECTED THIS WOMAN WITH A
GENETIC VIRUS THAT TRANS-
FORMED HER ON A CELLULAR LEVEL
INTO A NEAR DUPLICATION OF THE
ORIGINAL.

"BUT THE DUPLICATION, WHILE
IMPRESSIVE, WAS NOT EXACT.

"THIS WOMAN IS NOT, AND
NEVER WAS, GWEN
STACY'S CLONE"

NO!

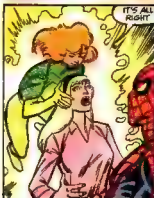
WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?

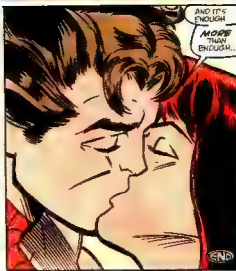
THAT I DON'T
EXIST?

EASY-

IN YOUR HEART, YOU BOTH KNOW THE
TRUTH. INDEED, YOU HAVE ALWAYS
KNOWN

WHETHER
YOU CHOOSE
TO ACCEPT OR
DENY THE
TRUTH IS UP
TO YOU!





Stan Lee PRESENTS THE YOUNG GODS™

LIKE THE SHIMMER OF A SOAP BUBBLE, A GLIMMER OF LIGHT AND COLOR!

WITH A CRACKLE OF ENERGY LIKE A PULSE OF HEAT LIGHT-RINGS!

A BREATH OF WIND, A WHISPER OF SOUND!

THEY'RE HERE

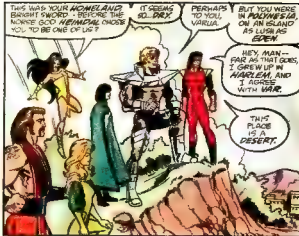


FROM A PLACE IN DISTANT SPACE--

--TO A HILLSIDE OVERLOOKING JERUSALEM.

THEY HAVE ARRIVED.

OPPOSING FORCES



THIS WAS YOUR HOMELAND BRIGHT SWORD - BEFORE THE NOBSE GOD HEIMDAL CHOSE YOU TO BE ONE OF US?

IT SEEMS SO... DRY.

PERHAPS TO YOU, VARUA.

BUT YOU WERE IN POLYNESIA, ON AN ISLAND AS LUSH AS EDEN.

HEY, MAN - FAR AS THAT GOES, I GREW UP IN HARLEM, AND I AGREE WITH WAR.

THIS PLACE IS A DESERT.

DESERT OR NOT, IT'S MY HOME, GEN!

MY FATHER WAS A ZIONIST.

HE CAME HERE IN 1941, A BOY OF FIFTEEN. HE MARRIED, RAISED A FAMILY - AND DIED DURING THE SIX-DAY WAR.



MY FAMILY HAS SOWN THIS SOIL WITH ITS BLOOD.

WHATEVER I MAY HAVE BECOME, GOD OR MAN WITH GOD - KE POWER - THIS LAND WILL ALWAYS BE MY HOME.

THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND AS I DO BRIGHT SWORD.

I, TOO, LOVE THE EARTH...

BUT I THINK I WINE YOU EVEN MORE CARTER DYAM!



DAYDREAMER, I FEEL THE PSYCHIC PRESENCE YOU TOLD US YOU NOTICED AFTER WE LEFT THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S FORTRESS.

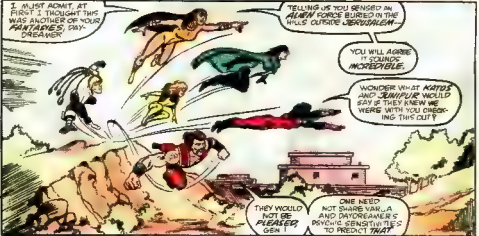
BUT I CAN'T PINPOINT ITS LOCATION HERE - CAN YOU?



TAKE YOUR TIME KATRINKA DON'T FORGE IT.

I WISH YOU WEREN'T SO PROTECTIVE GREGOR REALLY I CAN HANDLE MY- THERE!

A MILE NORTH, SO STRONG I CAN TASTE IT!



I MUST ADMIT, AT FIRST I THOUGHT THIS WAS ANOTHER OF YOUR KATAPLES, DAY-DREAMER.

TELLING US YOU SENSED AN ALIEN FORCE BURIED IN THE HILLS OUTSIDE JERUSALEM -

YOU WILL AGREE IT SOUNDS INCREDIBLE.

WONDER WHAT KATOS AND JUMPIR WOULD SAY IF THEY KNEW WE WERE WITH YOU CHECKING THIS OUT?

THEY WOULD NOT BE PLEASED, GEN!

ONE NEED NOT SHARE VARUA AND DAYDREAMER'S PSYCHIC SENSITIVITIES TO PREDICT THAT.

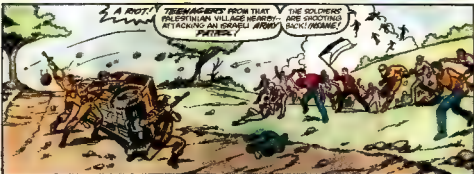
AND WHEN WE FIND
THIS "PRESENCE"
BRIGHT SWORD--
WHAT THEN?

DO WE HAVE
A RIGHT TO
INTERFERE?

AFTER ALL, KAT'S TAUGHT
GENII, HARVEST, AND ME TO
LET MANKIND SOLVE ITS
OWN DIFFICULTIES

YOUR GODS TOOK YOU FROM
RUK ISLAND CENTURIES
BEFORE THE WHITE
MAN ARRIVED, AURA

IF YOU'D SEEN WHAT HARM CANTRE
DONE TO A PEOPLE BY THE ARRIVAL OF
AN OUTSIDE "ALIEN" CULT-- THEN,
YOU'D BE LESS WILLING TO



FRONTIERELLE

ACTUALLY SAVE DND.

--AND WHEN SHE WAS CHOSEN BY A DEITY FROM THE ALBINOQUIN PANTHEON TO BECOME ONE OF THE YOUNG GODS, CATHERINE MORANIS WAS GLAD TO LEAVE HER OLD LIFE BEHIND

ANGRY

FROM THAT DAY TO THIS,
HER LIFE HAS BEEN THE
FULFILLMENT OF A
DREAM.

IIIEEEEE!!

SPRINK

THE
DREAM JUST
TURNED
UGLY.

KATRINKA!

PILLOW!

SPRINK

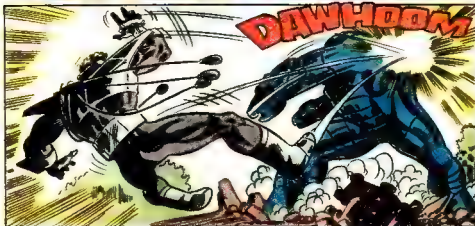
YOU WERE WONDERING
HOW WE SHOULD **REACT**,
VARLA?

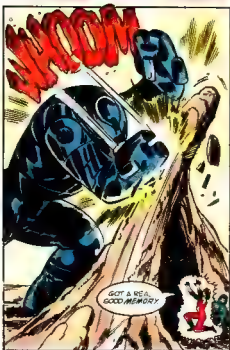
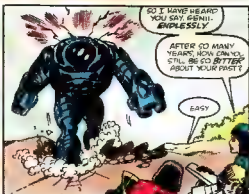
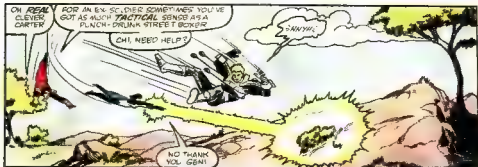
WHETHER TO
INTERFERE OR
NOT
INTERFERE?

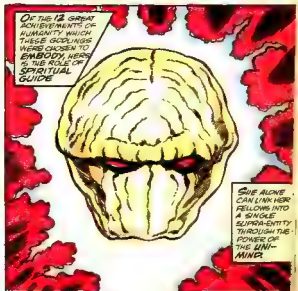
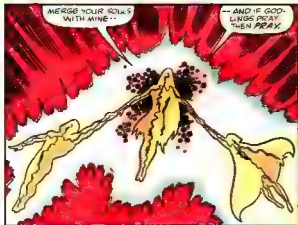
WHAT DO
YOU SAY
NOW?

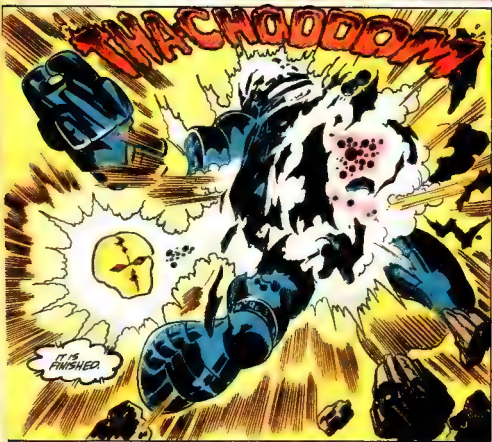
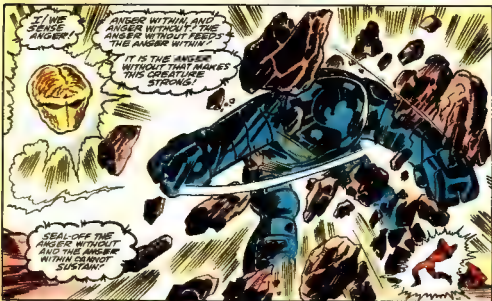
WAIT-- WE HAVE TO
UNDERSTAND--

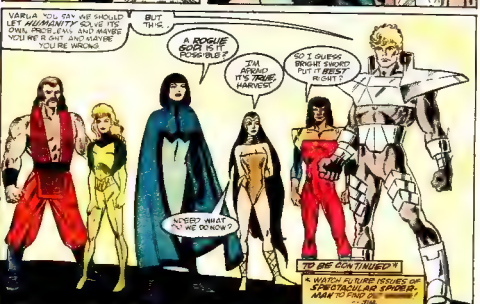
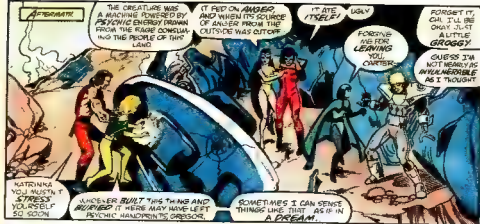
I'M **DONE** WITH
WAITING. COME WITH
UNDERSTANDING!













ONE THOUSAND YEARS AGO THE OLD GODS OF EARTH JOINED TO PREPARE FOR THE EVENTUAL RETURN OF THE CELESTIALS-- SUPERBEINGS WHOSE PLAN TO JUDGE HUMANITY THREATENED MANKIND'S VERY EXISTENCE

ENDOWING THESE HUMANS WITH GODLIKE POWERS THE OLD GODS OFFERED THE TWELVE SUPRA-HUMANS TO THE CELESTIALS AS PROOF OF MANKIND'S WORTHINESS TO SURVIVE.

OVER A SPAN OF TEN CENTURIES, THE GODS CHOSE TWELVE ORDINARY MEN AND WOMEN WHOSE SKILLS REPRESENTED THE TWELVE GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS OF MAN

FOR REASONS OF THEIR OWN, INCOMPREHENSIBLE EVEN TO GODS, THE CELESTIALS "ADOPTED" THE TWELVE SUPRAHUMANS, TAKING THEM ABOARD THE CELESTIAL MOTHERSHIP--



NOW, PERHAPS, THEY ARE READY TO RETURN TO THE WORLD THAT GAVE THEM BIRTH

-- WHERE THEY HAVE REMAINED IN CONSTANT TRAINING, LEARNING THE ETHOS OF GODHOOD

BUT IS THE WORLD READY FOR THEM...?

MOONSTALKER

HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT: WINTER

POWER: HYPER-SPEED AND STEALTH, THE ABILITY TO VISUALLY BLEND WITH HER SURROUNDINGS IN COMPLETE CAMOUFLAGE



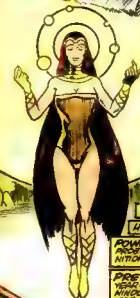
VARIA

HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT: PRIESTESS

POWER: MISTRESS OF THE UN-MIND (IN WHICH THE YOUNG GODS MIND-MELD, BECOMING A GROUP CONSCIOUSNESS); TELEPATHY AND TELEPORTATION

PREVIOUS HUMAN IDENTITY:

VARIA, A POLYNESIAN GIRL (19 YEARS OLD) FROM RUK ISLAND, BORN IN MOS BEFORE THE COMING OF WHITE MEN TO THE PACIFIC--A STERN, CORRECTIVE TEENAGE GIRL, VERY TAKE CHARGE, AND NOT AT ALL OBVIOUSLY "SPIRITUAL" (THOUGH IN FACT, SHE'S VERY SPIRITUAL INDEED).



CALCULUS

HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT: SCIENTIST

POWER: INSTANT CALCULATION AND ANALYSIS OF PROBABILITIES (ALMOST, BUT NOT QUITE PRECOGNITION); A MASTER-PLANNER AND TELEPATH

PREVIOUS HUMAN IDENTITY: 20

YEAR-OLD JAYANARAT PATEL, A HINDU OF THE BRAHMIN CASTE, BORN IN 1940 AND "ADOPTED" BY THE GOVS OF THE HINDU PANTHEON THE YEAR INDIA ACHIEVED INDEPENDENCE--A GENTLE SOUL, THOUGHTFUL AND LOVING, UNWILLING TO SEE EVIL IN ANYONE, A TRAIT WHICH CAN LEAD TO WEAKNESS.



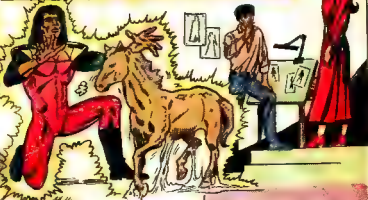
PREVIOUS HUMAN IDENTITY: KYANA, A 16-YEAR OLD INUPIAT WOMAN FROM 11TH CENTURY ALASKA--QUIET, INTENSE, MOODY BUT WITH A RALUCIOUS SENSE OF HUMOR THAT POPS OUT AT SOMETIMES IN OPPORTUNE MOMENTS.



GENI**HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT:
ARTIST**

POWER: MIND OVER MATTER, THE ABILITY TO ALTER THE FORM OF PHYSICAL OBJECTS BY MANIPULATING HIS OWN LIFE ENERGY (CONSERVATION OF ENERGY, ENERGY INTO MATTER).

PREVIOUS HUMAN IDENTITY: 26-YEAR OLD JASON KIMBALL, HARLEM RESIDENT FROM THE EARLY 1970'S, A FASHION DESIGNER WHOSE CAREER ENDED AFTER A BOUT WITH COMPULSIVE GAMBLING -- A RISK-TAKER, MANIC-DEPRESSIVE, SOMEWHAT SELF-DESTRUCTIVE.

**CADUCEUS****HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT:
PHYSICIAN**

POWER: MASTER OF HEALING AND TELEKINETIC MUTATION, THE ABILITY TO STRENGTHEN AND TRANSFORM LIVING THINGS.

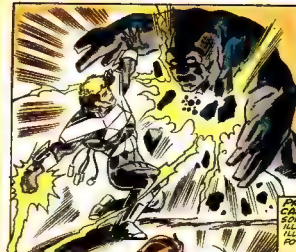
PREVIOUS HUMAN IDENTITY: MARK CADWON, 30 YEAR-OLD MAN FROM THE CHICAGO, ROUGH AND TUMBLE TOUGH-GUY WHOSE WISECRACKING MANNER CONCEALS A HARD-AS-NAILS HEART.

**HARVEST****HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT:
FARMER**

POWER: MISTRESS OF VEGETATION, TELEPATHIC CONTROL OVER ALL PLANT LIFE.

PREVIOUS HUMAN IDENTITY: CHILO, A 17-YEAR OLD JAPANESE WOMAN FROM A SMALL SEACOAST VILLAGE IN THE EARLY 1970'S. WELL-EDUCATED BUT NON-ASSERTIVE TO THE POINT OF INFURIATING HER MORE ACTIVE FELLOWS; BUT ONCE SHE MAKES HER MIND UP, LITTLE CAN DIVERT HER FROM ACHIEVING HER GOAL.





BRIGHT SWORD
HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT
WARRIOR
POWER: PHYSICAL
INDESTRUCTIBILITY,
HYPER-STRENGTH,
MASTER OF ALL
WEAPONRY (HUMAN
AND ALIEN)



PREVIOUS HUMAN IDENTITY:
CARTER DYAM, 24 YEAR-OLD ISRAELI
SOLDIER FROM THE EARLY 1970s -- DIS-
ILLUSIONED BY WAR, EVEN MORE DIS-
ILLUSIONED BY PEOPLE, BELIEVES
FORCE IS THE ONLY WAY TO ACHIEVE
A NOBLE END.



MINDSINGER
HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT: POET
POWER: TELEPATHY AND TRANS-
SUBSTANTIATION -- THE ABILITY TO
TRANSFORM HIMSELF INTO OTHER
OBJECTS. **PREVIOUS HUMAN**
IDENTITY: 28 YEAR-OLD GREGOR
BUNKAROV, 18TH CENTURY RUSSIAN
STUDENT FROM KIEV -- A DARK
RAGES ALTERNATING WITH
CHEERFUL OUTBURSTS OF SONG
AND WILD ENTHUSIASMS

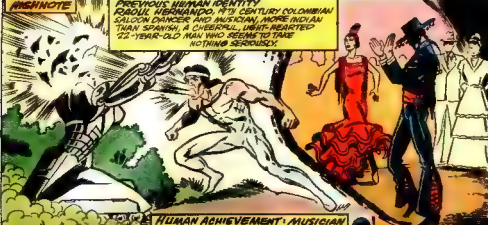
SEA WITCH
HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT:
SAILOR

POWER: AMPHIBIAN,
TELEKINETIC MANIPU-
LATION OF WATER IN
ALL ITS FORMS
(LIQUID, SOLID,
GASEOUS)

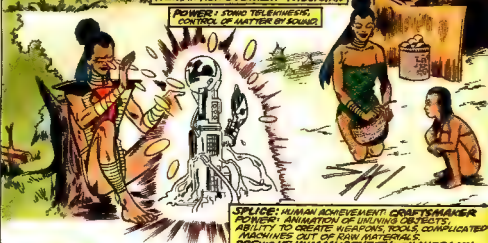
PREVIOUS HUMAN
IDENTITY:
DAVID IT O'HARE,
12TH CENTURY IRISH
GIRL OF 17, A WILD
HOT-TEMPERED
AND LUSTY WENCH
WHOSE OUTWARDLY
PASSIONATE NATURE
MAY HARK A PEARL
OF IRISH.

FLASHNOTE

PREVIOUS HUMAN IDENTITY: RAUL HERNANDEZ, 19TH CENTURY COLOMBIAN SALOON DANCER AND MUSICIAN, MORE INDIAN THAN SPANISH, A CHEERFUL, LIGHT-HEARTED 22-YEAR-OLD MAN WHO SEEMS TO TAKE NOTHING SERIOUSLY.

**HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT: MUSICIAN**

POWER: SOUND TELEKINESIS, CONTROL OF MATTER BY SOUND.



SPLICE: HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT: CRAFTSMAN
POWER: ANIMATION OF UNLIVING OBJECTS, ABILITY TO CREATE WEAPONS, TOOLS, COMPLICATED MACHINES OUT OF RAW MATERIALS.
PREVIOUS HUMAN IDENTITY: CHANDRA KUL, 18TH CENTURY BULLY GIRL OF 13--RARELY SPEAKS, PREFERS MEDITATION TO HUMAN COMPANY, EXTREMELY LONELY, WITH NO FRIENDS AMONG THE OTHER GODS, THE ONLY ONE OF THEM WHO SEEMS TO TAKE NOTHING SERIOUSLY.



DAYDREAMER: HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT: PHILOSOPHER. **POWER:** LIMITED PRECOGNITION, VERBAL AND TELEPATHIC THOUGHT CONTROL, THE ABILITY TO CREATE "VISIONS." **PREVIOUS HUMAN IDENTITY:** CATHERINE MORANAS, 11TH CENTURY 25-YEAR-OLD FARM WOMAN FROM OTTAWA, CANADA. A MILD, DREAMY WOMAN WITH A SPINE OF TEMPERED STEEL.

STAN LEE
PRESENTS:

THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY

CHAPTER TEN:

THE SON OF EARTH

HIS REAL NAME IS HERBERT EDGAR WYNDHAM, AND AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME SOME YEARS AND HE IS THE MOST EVOLUTIONARILY ADVANCED BEING THE HUMAN RACE HAS EVER PRODUCED.

AN ENTITY COMPOSED OF INTELLECT AND ELECTROMAGNETISM MORE THAN FLESH AND CHEMICALS, WYNDHAM HAS TRANSCENDED MORTALITY IN ORDER TO EMBRACE THE TOTALITY OF THE UNIVERSE.

BUT THE UNIVERSE IS LOST IN ITS BREADTH AND DEPTH AND TO TRULY KNOW IT DOWN TO ITS LAST ATOM WOULD TAKE EVEN AN INFINITE AMOUNT OF TIME. BUT BEFORE IT OCCURS.

MARY GREENWALD... WRITER
RON LIM... BREAKDOWNS
TONY DIZENGA... FINISHES
KEN LOPEZ... LETTERS
GREGORY MONTGOMERY... COLORS
RALPH MACCOMB... EDITOR
TOM PALCO... CHIEF

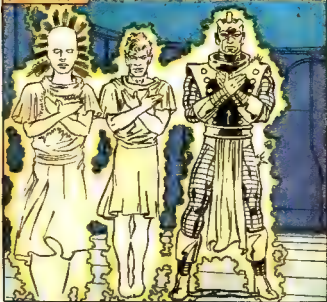
COMING TO HIS MADDENING REALIZATION, THE ONCE-HUMAN BEING HAS TURNED TO OTHER SCHOLARLY PURSUITS.

BORN THE IMMENSE ORGANIC POWER
WAS AT THE CENTER OF A WHIRLWIND
WAS FUSED TOGETHER AN
AGGREGATION OF ASTEROIDS--



--AND HENDED AND SHAPED THEIR
INTERIOR INTO A COMMANDING
POST AT FOR A BEING OF
PANTHERS AND FLESH... A MAN.

THEN, ALL THAT REMAINS IS FOR HIM TO VOLUNTARILY ~~REINFORCE~~ HIMSELF
INTO THAT MAN



I'M... BACK! BACK IN THE
FORM I SOUGHT TO
ESCAPE. MY EVOLUTIONARY
QUANTUM JUMP SAVED
ME FROM DYING--



--BUT IT WAS NOT RIGHT.
I WENT TOO FAR... TOO FAST...
PSYCHOLOGICALLY, I WAS
UNREADY FOR SO ALIEN AN
EXISTENCE EVEN AS MY
NEW MEN PROVED NOT TO
BE READY FOR

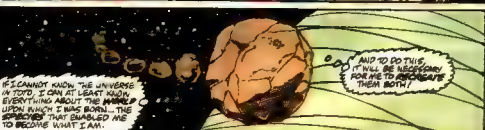
ME--

BUT THOUGH I HAVE ELECTED TO
RETURN TO PHYSICAL FORM, I
HAVE NOT RETURNED TO THE
PRECISE **RUNG** ON THE EVOLU-
TIONARY LADDER I STARTED
FROM. NO, I AM STILL AT LEAST
A HUNDRED THOUSAND
YEARS FARTHER ALONG THAN
MAINSTREAM HUMANITY.



THE EXPANDED INTELLECTUAL
CAPACITY, THE VARIOUS ABILITIES
TO MENTALLY MANIPULATE THE
ENVIRONMENT, THE MORE
DURABLE PHYSIOGNOMY--ALL
THESE WILL PROVE **USEFUL**
TO ME IN MY NEW LIFE'S
WORK

IF I CANNOT KNOW THE UNIVERSE
IN **TOD**, I CAN AT LEAST KNOW
EVERYTHING ABOUT THE **WORLD**
UPON WHICH I WAS BORN... THE
SPECIES THAT ENABLED ME
TO BECOME WHAT I AM.



AND TO DO THIS,
IT WILL BE NECESSARY
FOR ME TO **INCORPORATE**
THEM BOTH!

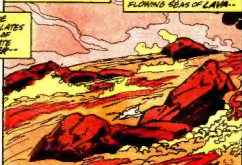
AND IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS THAT FOLLOW, THE SELF-STYLED HIGH EVOLUTIONARY BEGINS THE MOST AUDACIOUS EXPERIMENT EVER ATTEMPTED BY MAN...



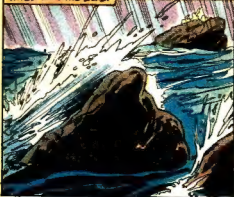
FIRST HE ACCUMULATES CHUNKS OF INANIMATE MATTER--

...FINALLY AMASSING ENOUGH RAW MATERIAL TO CONSTRUCT ANOTHER EARTH.

HE DIRECTS THE ARTIFICIAL PLANET'S GEOPHYSICAL EVOLUTION, THE SHIFTING PLATES OF ROCK AND THE FLOWING SEAS OF LAVA--



--GIVE WAY TO DARK, CLOUDY, NECESSARY RAIN, AND GLOBE-SPANNING OCEANS... ALL IN A TRILLIONTH OF THE TIME IT TOOK FOR THE ORIGINAL WORLD TO DO THE SAME.



THEN HE SOWS THE FERTILE SEEDS OF LIFE--THE AMINO ACIDS WHICH ARE THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF ALL ORGANISMS ON EARTH. HE HASN'T THE TIME TO WAIT FOR THEM TO OCCUR NATURALLY.

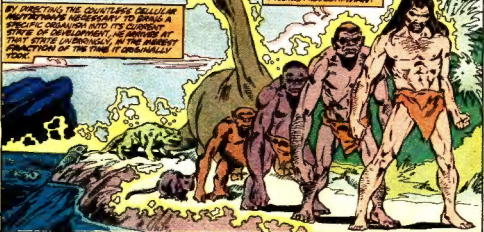
HE THEN STIRS THE PRE-INDIVIDUAL SOUP, SEASONING IT WITH PROTEINASE, AND HEATING IT UP WITH LIFE-ACCELERATING BIO-RAYS OF HIS OWN DISCOVERY.



HE WORKS FROM IMMEDIATE, KNOWING WHAT THE ULTIMATE CONFIGURATIONS OF EACH OF THE SPECIES HE INTENDS TO RECREATE WILL BE.

BY DIRECTING THE COUNTLESS CELLULAR MOTIONS NECESSARY TO BRING A SPECIFIC ORGANISM INTO ITS CURRENT STATE OF DEVELOPMENT, HE ARRIVES AT THAT STATE UNERRINGLY, IN THE MINUTE FRACTION OF THE TIME IT ORIGINALLY TOOK.

WITH THE SUCCESSFUL RE-CREATION OF SEVERAL OF HIS FAVORITE SPECIES, HE ENDS UPON HIS FUTILE PROJECT... MAN.



BUT EVEN A BEING AS PHYSICALLY ADVANCED AS THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY HAD TO FIRST EVENTUALLY, AND AFTER LONG MONTHS OF RETICULOUS LABOR, HE DOES.



AND WHILE HE SLUMBERS HE IS WATCHED OVER BY THE PROTOHUMAN KNOWN AS MAN-...

...AND HIS REMINISCENCE OF SOME YEARS PAST.

...THE MALEVOLENT MAN-BEAST. SO DEEP IS HIS HATRED FOR THE MAN THAT EVOLVED HIM THAT THE MAN-BEAST FEELS COMPELLED TO DETHrone HIS SIRE'S GRAND EXPERIMENT.

BY MEANS OF HIS MASTER'S OWN TECHNOLOGY, HE INSTRUCTS THE NASCENT HUMAN RACE IN THE WAYS OF VIOLENCE.

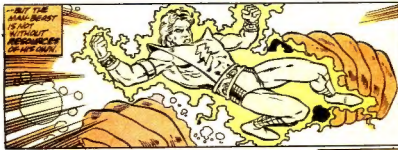


IT WAS THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY'S HOPE THAT HIS HUMAN RACE MIGHT BE SPARED THE INHUMANITY OF THE ORIGINAL.

HE VENTS HIS FURY AGAINST THE REBELS...



...BUT THE MAN-BEAST IS NOT WITHOUT RESOURCES OF HIS OWN.



IT IS AT THIS JUNCTURE THAT MAN CHOOSES TO EMERGE FROM THE ENERGY-COORDON HE WAS INCARCERATING WITHIN.

HE HAD GROWN TO ADVISE THE MASTER SCIENTIST WHOSE FINEST WORK HE WAS WITHSTANDING. HE WOULD NOT PERMIT HARM TO BEFALL HIM IF THERE WAS ANYTHING HE COULD DO TO PREVENT IT.



HIM HURLED HIMSELF INTO THE FRAY...

...ONLY TO HAVE THE MAN-BEAST AND HIS SAVAGE CREW DISAPPEAR IN A BURST OF LIGHT.



WE HAVE WON!

NO... HE'S FLED TO THE NEW WORLD... AND HIS BRUTAL LACKEYS WITH HIM.

COUNTER-EARTH, MY SWINING JEWEL,
IS FOREVER **FLAWED**. ALREADY HE HAS
CORRUPTED MY DEAREST DREAM--
THWARTED THE WORK OF LONG MONTHS.

ONLY ONE
COURSE IS OPEN
TO ME... RECI-
MATE IN
COUNTER-EARTH--
LEAVE IT NO MORE
THAN COSMIC
DUST...

THE EXPERIMENT HAS NO MEANING
ANYMORE NOW THAT IT HAS BEEN
TAMPERED WITH!

NO,
WANT!

WHAT?
YOU
PRICE--?

I PRICE! YOU MUST
NOT DESTROY THIS PEOPLE
YOU HAVE CREATED-- AND
WHICH DESERVE
BETTER.

I BEHOLD A SPARK OF
GOODNESS IN THEM. THAT
SPARK MUST BE NURTURED
AS THE FLICKERING EMBER
IS SHIELDED FROM THE
DRENCHING RAIN.

I PRAY YOU, LET ME
SERVE THIS STRANGE
RACE CALLED HUMAN BY
TRACKING DOWN THE MAN-
BEAST THAT SKULKS
AMONG THEM.

YOU ASK, PERHAPS YOUR OWN
DOOM, I FEAR. FOR THE WOLF-
THING'S POWERS ARE BEYOND
EVEN YOURS, YET... IF YOU
TRULY **WISH** TO RISK YOUR-
SELF FOR THE EARTH...

I--
WISH
IT.

THEN, IT WOULD SEEM I
FOUND A **SON**... ONE WHO MIGHT
HAVE SHARED MY GALACTIC
WANDERINGS... ONLY TO **LOSE**
HIM AGAIN.

GO THEN... WALK THE EARTH
A **TARGET** FOR THE MURDEROUS
MAN-BEAST-- PERHAPS FOR
NURTURING AS WELL, FOR
LINCANNY YOUR SACRED
MISSION... UNEARTHLY YOUR
WEIRDLING POWERS...

AND BEHOLDING THEM,
MEN SHALL CALL YOU
WARLOCK!

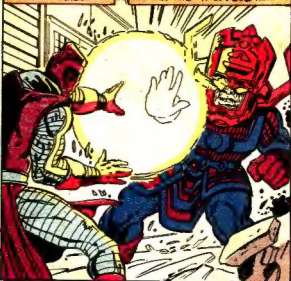
FOR MONTHS, THE
GOLDEN-SHINNED
CRUSAIDER BATTLES
THE EVIL OF THE
MAN-BEAST ON
THE HIGH
EVOLUTION-
ARY'S LAB-
ORATORY-
WORLD...

AT ONE POINT
THE REAL
EARTH'S MOST
POWERFUL CO-
STAR, THE
BLACK
EVEN JOINS
HIS
COLLSIDE...

BUT FOR
HIS EFFORTS,
ADAM
WARLOCK
IS PERSECUTED AND
SENTENCED
TO DEATH.

HAVING SEEN THE ARTIFICIAL WORLD OF ITS CREATOR, WARLOCK LEAVES COUNTER-EARTH, SATISFIED THAT HE HAS BROUGHT THE WORLD REDEMPTION IN ITS CREATOR'S EYES.

INDEED HE WAS. SO MONTHS LATER, WHEN THE WORLD-RAVAGING GALACTUS PROCLAIMS HIS INTENTION TO DESTROY THE PLANET FOR ITS ENERGY, THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY SETS FOOT UPON HIS CREATION FOR THE FIRST AND ONLY TIME—TO OPPOSE HIM.



THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY EMPLOY'S HIS EVERY RESOURCE AGAINST THE WORLD-EATER, AND MANAGES TO REPEL HIM, THEREBY SAVING THE WORLD EVEN AS WARLOCK HAD DONE AGAINST ANOTHER THREAT.

TURNING TO OTHER PURSUITS, THE MASTER GENETICIST IS STARTLED WHEN NEXT HE REMOVS HIS PROTEGE...



YOU LIE, HIGH EVOLUTIONARY! YOU LIE!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ADAM?



YOU SPOKE TO ME THAT IF I CLEARED COUNTER-EARTH OF EVIL, YOU WOULD NOT DESTROY IT.

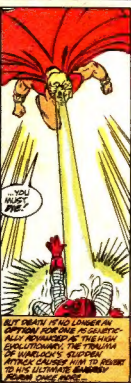
BUT YOU LIE—COUNTER-EARTH AND ITS FOUR BILLION INHABITANTS ARE DEAD!



WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT? HE WAS ONLY TO LOOK AT MY VIEW-SCREEN TO SEE THAT MY CREATION IS INTACT.

THAT SON-OF-A-BITCH UPON HIS BROW... COULD IT SOMEHOW BE TAMPERING WITH HIS PERCEPTIONS?

ADAM, WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU MY SON?



...YOU MUST DIE!

BUT THERE IS NO LONGER AN OPTION FOR ONE AS GENETICALLY ADVANCED AS THE HIGH EVOLUTIONARY. THE TORMENT OF WARLOCK'S SUDDEN ATTACK CAUSES HIM TO REVERT TO HIS ULTIMATE GAMBLY FORM—ONCE MORE...



AND WHILE THE APPALLED WARLOCK RANTS ABOUT HIS MENTOR'S DEATH BEING A PRECURSOR TO HIS OWN—

THE MAN HE BELIEVES HE HAS SLAIN FEELS HIMSELF, BEYOND CHARGES.

CONCLUDED IN MEMBERS ANNUAL #17!